THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT : (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Around 2120 Wakf properties in Punjab, 630 in Haryana and 26 in Himachal Pradesh are under encroachment.

(b) to (d) No Sir, Punjab Wakf Board is taking effective steps for removal of encroachment and retrieval of Wakf properties by filing a number of cases in courts against the encroachers. The Board has issued notices to the encroachers under section 54 of Wakf Act 1995.

Leasing System of Properties in PWB

3151. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present non-transparent leasing system of properties in Punjab Wakf Board is the root cause of large-scale corruption;

(b) whether the leasing by open auction can be a transparent and corruption free system; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir. The Punjab Wakf Board leases out Wakf properties, as per clearly defined Rent Schedule.

(b) and (c) Leasing of Wakf property by open auction is not feasible as there is no free hold land in the possession of the Board. The properties are either in the possession of the tenants or lessees.

Non-Revision of Rental and Lease Money of PWB Properties

3152. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in case of thousands of Wakf properties in Punjab Wakf Board the rentals and lease money have not been revised since long;

(b) whether it is a fact that rents/lease money is not automatically revised after a regular interval;